

Phan Quang

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

Background

After World War II, some Japanese soldiers remained in Vietnam to work for Japanese companies or Vietnamese government agency. At this time, many Japanese men fell in love and married Vietnamese ladies.

After 1955, all Japanese soldiers were ordered to return home under the agreement between Japan and Vietnam. Their mixed-race children and wives had to stay in Vietnam with the hopes that their fathers and husbands would return. But until now, many of these Japanese soldiers have only returned as tourists. These men often do not share responsibility for raising their Vietnamese family, because in reality, they already have a family in Japan.

The children of such situations possess Japanese ID cards but have never visited their father's homeland. Within Vietnam, they are not considered Vietnamese. They are stigmatized and discriminated as outsiders.

I have been working with many families of such predicament. These fourth generation grandchildren who physically and psychologically live Japanese rules of discipline, obedience and etiquette strike me.

All wars change physical and psychological borders, challenging the rights of citizens. Despite the result, many people suffer long-term consequences.

For this installation I will recreate the house of Mrs Thuy Xuan, wife of Japanese soldier Mr Sushi (Vietnamese name: Mr Nguyen Van Duc) in Dong Anh district, 30km from Hanoi. Over the last 60 years, she still loves and misses her husband very much. Mrs Thuy Xuan always keeps one pillow beside her to remember her husband. I want to display the entire house and her mementos for the viewers to experience the same overwhelming feeling I had on my first and many visits thereafter. I want people to feel the enduring love and commitment from this woman who has never seen her husband again. In this installation, on the walls of this recreated house will be 9 family portraits. These portraits depict several other families (wives and children) who suffered the same fate since 1955.

A white fabric can be seen covering these people. The Japanese made this woven plastic during their occupation of Vietnam from 1943 to 1955. This plastic was used for wedding veils and bridal dresses. This material covers these subjects to stand in for Japan and its missing men.

These Japanese soldiers left their Vietnamese families not by their own choosing. They got caught in the turning gears of history. Such families are testament to the fact that it is historical context that betrays people, not people betraying each other.

Artist Biography

Phan Quang Vietnam

Quang has been working as a photojournalist since 2001 to present. Quang provides photos and photo reports to all top media in Vietnam by his understanding, skill and talent. Quang also has a strong sense with media and his skill has won him a number of successful reports and news from all top media - from documentary, fashion, design, interior design, food to portrait.

Quang was born in 1976 in Binh Dinh province. He has working in Saigon Tiep Thi right after graduated from HCMC University of Economy in 2000. At first, he worked on documentary photos. By his self-studying, he's also been practicing his skill with fashion, design and food for almost of all lifestyle magazines in Vietnam.

With over 13 years experience in the media industry, Quang has become one of the most sought-after photojournalists in Vietnam. However, in 2008 Quang decided to join a training course in Long Beach - USA about creative and contemporary arts. This course has opened a new door for him to have a comprehensive view of social contemporary. He decided to be an artist, to show the world his point of view, his reflection about the realistic of this society. His occupation allows him to approach to all of level of the society.

Solo Exhibitions

- Adaptations
Koganecho, Yokohama, Japan October 2013
- Self-Portrait 2013
Koganecho, Yokohama, Japan September 2013
- Space / Limit San Art. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam February 2013
- A Farmer's Diary
Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nom October 2010
- The Colour - Art installation
Himiko visual cafe, Ho Chi Minh City March 2009

Group Exhibitions

- Made in Asia
Toulouse, France
January 2014

- Image Festival Alboo Danish
Denmark
August 2013
- Xem
San Art, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
September 2013
- FREEDOM is the Motorbike
Long Beach City College in Long Beach, California, USA
September 2013
- Who is your neighbor?
Seoul, Korea September – 2013
- Poetic Politic
Kadist Art Foundation SF, USA
December 2012
- THE DOGMA PRIZE IN SELF-PORTRAITURE
by Mekong Artists Company under the auspices of the Dogma organization
Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi
2011/2012
- Contemporary Media Art Exhibition 2011
Organized by ASEAN-Korea Centre
Kumho Museum of Art, Seoul
September - October 2011
- Festival Photo PhnomPenh 2011 / 2012
Organized by The Institut Francais of Cambodia
PhnomPenh, Cambodia
26 November - 2 December 2011
- Self-Portraits
Organized by Dogma Collection
Fine Arts Museum, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
12th – 30th July 2011
- Esperanlopolis on On Slam's
Organized by The Consulate General of France in HCMC 30 Pham Ngoc Thach,
District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
June 24th, 2011

- **Social Sculpture**
In collaboration with artist Phong Bui. Organized by San Art. Ho Chi Minh City San Art, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
May 20th – July 23rd, 2011
- **Face to face with title "Ms Ngoc"**
A month of images in Ho Chi Minh City
Organized by The Consulate General of France in Ho Chi Minh City
Ho Chi Minh City Association of photographers, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
4th – 21st September 2007
- **Join project Mekong River**
Organized by Stone & Water Supplemental Space, Anyang, Korea.
In Mekong Data Viet Nam 2008

Awards & Residency

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2011 | special recognition awards of Dogma Prize in self-portraiture 2011 |
| 2009 | Press Award of Ho Chi Minh City |
| 2008 | Press Award of Ho Chi Minh City |